

Massachusetts Bays National Estuary Program
State of the Bays Symposium
April 15, 2015, Boston MA

8:30am Registration/check-in

Part 1: Setting the Stage

Massachusetts Bay and Cape Cod Bay – and MassBays – in the context of the larger Gulf of Maine ecosystem, and the larger effort to improve and protect coastal natural resources represented by the National Estuary Program. One of the larger and more diverse NEPs, MassBays encompasses 50 municipalities and numerous agencies, 47 embayments and a wide range of habitat types.

9:00 **Welcome** -- Samantha Woods
North and South Rivers Watershed Association
Chair, MassBays Management Committee

9:10 ***Keynote Presentations: MassBays in Context***

EPA's Local Connection

-- Deborah Szaro, Deputy Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 1

Gateway to the Gulf of Maine

-- Ru Morrison, Director
Northeast Regional Association of Coastal and
Ocean Observing Systems (NERACOOS)

Introduction to the Bays – and MassBays

-- Bruce Carlisle, Director
Massachusetts Coastal Zone Management (CZM)

9:45 *Symposium Goals*

Toward a Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan

-- Pam DiBona, Director
MassBays National Estuary Program (MassBays)



Part 2: What We Know/Trends and Conditions

Panelists will provide insights into the following questions: what has changed over space and time in the past 5 to 10 years? Who cares – or should care – and why? Each topic will be closed out with a moderated question and answer session, and graphic representation of the information.

9:50

Human Uses; Weather & Climate

Moderator: Sam Cleaves, Metropolitan Area Planning Council

Panelists: Heidi Ricci, MassAudubon

Harlan Doliner, Marine and Oceanographic Technology Network

Ellen Mecray, National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration

Julia Knisel, CZM

Jo Ann Muramoto, MassBays/Association to Preserve Cape Cod

10:30 Break

10:50

Water Quality

Moderator: Wendy Leo, Massachusetts Water Resources Authority

Panelists: Betsy Davis, EPA Region 1

Newton Tedder, EPA Region 1

Amy Costa, Center for Coastal Studies

Michael Celona, Massachusetts Department of Public Health

Barbara Warren, MassBays/Salem Sound Coastwatch

11:30

Habitats

Moderator: Juliet Simpson, MIT SeaGrant

Panelists: Andy Lipsky, SeaPlan

Hunt Durey, Massachusetts Division of Ecological Restoration

Anne Giblin, Marine Biological Laboratory

Adrienne Pappal, CZM

Peter Phippen, MassBays/Merrimack Valley Planning Commission

12:15pm

Lunch

1:20

Wildlife

Moderator: Kathryn Ford, Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

Panelists: Jeff Kennedy, Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

Katharine Parsons, MassAudubon

Abigail Archer, Cape Cod Cooperative Extension

Sara Grady, MassBays/North and South Rivers Watershed Association



Part 3: Looking forward

Can we do a better job of using existing information to make useful statements about the State of the Bays? Can we fill in gaps by connecting monitoring efforts to each other, and to research programs?

Through our Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan, MassBays will support new structures for data collection and sharing that supports Bays-focused research and management.

2:00 *Making Connections: Opportunities for Partnerships and Progress*

-- Symposium attendees

2:50 *Comprehensive Conservation & Management for Massachusetts Bay and Cape Cod Bay – call for comments*

-- Pam DiBona, MassBays

3:00 *Thank you and adjourn*

-- Jon Kachmar, The Nature Conservancy
Vice-Chair, MassBays Management Committee

